



The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association
Montgomery, Alabama

Volume 9, Number 7 July 2007

CCMGA Officers

President

Mary Eleanor Hines

Vice President

Karin Carmichael

Secretary

Dianne Bush

Treasurer

Jane Shalhoop

Newsletter Staff

Editor

Betsy Coley

Assistant Editor

Lisa Lenox

ACES Office

Montgomery County

Extension Office

2 EAST, Suite 107

400 Eastern Blvd

Montgomery, AL

334 / 265-0233



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

July CCMGA Program focuses on Trees in the Urban Landscape

The July meeting of the Capital City Master Gardeners Association will be Tuesday, July 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Members are reminded to come as early as 9:30 a.m. if they need to contact others about CCMGA business, or for fellowship, since the program starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Russell Stringer, the Urban Forester for the City of Montgomery, will discuss the city plan concerning tree planting and care, and the Legacy Tree Program. He will also address any questions the members have about their own trees or trees in general.

Members who won door prizes at the April meeting are reminded to bring door prizes for the July meeting.

The speaker for the August meeting is Peggy Givhan. She will present a program on "How to Design and Maintain an English Herbaceous Border."

"What Tree is That?"

The National Arbor Day Foundation has published a 72-page guidebook on tree identification, "What Tree is That?" This book helps distinguish different characteristics of many species of trees, including dozens of detailed drawings that illustrate the specific shapes and textures of different leaves, needles, acorns, berries, seed pods, cones, and other features.

To obtain a copy of the guide, send your name, address, and \$3.00 per copy requested to

What Tree is That?

The National Arbor Day Foundation

100 Arbor Avenue

Nebraska City, NE 68410

You can also order at www.arborday.org.



The Four Standards of a Tree City USA

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program.

It is important to note that they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size.

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Tree Care Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Editor's Note: Montgomery, Alabama could not be found on the list of "Tree City USA" at the National Arbor Day Foundation web site.

CCMGA Meeting Minutes June 26, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President, Mary Eleanor Hines. Motion to accept the minutes as published in "The Prairie Mud" was made by Mary Cochran and seconded by Sarah Brown. The motion passed.

Jane Shalhoop gave the Treasurer's report. The beginning balance for this month was \$3724 and the ending balance was \$3416. She also reported that there were 91 paid members on the books as of yesterday. Jane announced that Suzanne Reaves had a birthday this month. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as given was made by Cookie Ruth and seconded by Karen Carmichael. The motion passed. Mary Eleanor welcomed the many guests that joined us today for our garden tour.

Old Business

The 2007 CCMGA Membership Directory will be printed and available next month. Mary Eleanor requested that all members present today please check the membership roster and insure that their contact information is accurate. Lynne Khulmann volunteered to print the directories again this year. Anna Owen and Jane Shalhoop are also working with Lynne to complete this task.

Mary Eleanor presented a Silver Star to Tina Bowles to recognize her many hours of volunteer garden work.

New Business

None

Announcements

June 27, 2007, a video conference will be held statewide to discuss successes, issues and concerns about the Master Gardener Helpline. Shane Harris asked that any members of CCMGA who have worked on the Helpline and want to participate in the video conference should be at his office tomorrow morning from 8 until 12.

On July 12, 2007, there will be an ACES workshop on Backyard Blueberry Farming. The program will start at 9 am and conclude at 2 pm. The cost for pre-registration is \$10, which includes publication, recipe book, t-shirt and lunch. Contact Shane Harris.

Michelle Cole extended an invitation by letter to CCMGA members to attend the "Tree City USA" volunteer recognition event in Auburn. Contact Mary Eleanor Hines for more info.

A handout was distributed from James Harwell regarding how to water your landscape and conserve water.

Karen Weber will not be working with volunteers in the Shakespeare Garden for the next two Wednesdays.

Deborah Giles requested that some members sign up to provide refreshments for meetings in July, August, and September.

Mary Eleanor distributed a handout about calculating your MG volunteer hours.

Our next meeting will be at the Vaughn Road Church of Christ and our speaker will be Russell Stringer, Montgomery's Urban Forester.

The meeting was adjourned and members were invited to go to the Hotel Talisi for Dutch-treat lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Maddox (for Dianne Bush, CCMGA Secretary)



Chilton County Farm, Home, and Wildlife Expo

Chilton County Master Gardeners invite all Master Gardeners to the Sixth Annual Chilton County Farm, Home, and Wildlife Expo. This event will be held on Saturday, August 11, from Noon until 5 p.m. at the Chilton Research and Extension Center at 120 County Road 756, Clanton.

They promise a full packed afternoon of presentations, plus all the fruit you can eat followed by a free hamburger supper with cake and peaches. In addition, view the Chilton County Master Gardeners Demo Garden as well as enjoy the entertainment. The Chilton County Master Gardeners will be out in force to help with this event.

Twenty- minute presentations will be given on the following subjects by a expert in the field: Pruning, Herb Gardening, Pecans, Satsumas, Fire Ant Control, Wildlife Control, Blackberry, Milk Goats (a real must see), Grass-lawn (samples, selection and care and maintainance), Vine Crops, Pond Management, Caged Fish, Master Gardeners Demo Garden Tour, Summer Flowers (this is a test site for hundreds of annual and perenials), Heritage Tomatoes, Fruit Tasting, Tomato tasting, Full of peaches, Fish Cooking - the how to's on cooking fish.

Garden Clippings

By Mary Eleanor Hines, CCMGA President

Did you know that, by early July, daylight begins to decrease? It's very slight, but it does occur. Actually by July, also, the nighttime temperatures seldom drop below 70 degrees. That is the reason many zone 8 plants struggle to look their best, not because daytime temperatures reach the upper 90's, but because night temperatures stay so warm. Let us try to be patient until Fall when plants like geraniums perk up and bloom until Thanksgiving or until the first freeze.

Many thanks to Vice President/Program Chairman KARIN CARMICHAEL for arranging the June field trip to Jim Scott's beautiful gardens at his Lake Martin home. This magnificent landscape is replete with waterfalls, well-placed boulders, wooded paths, streams, as well as an impressive underground wine collection with classical music to fit the environment. There were surprises along every pathway. Chess anyone? An outdoor, giant chessboard (about 20' by 20') was available with carved chessmen some two feet high. The chessboard was surrounded by a wooden deck and an attractive fence, with assorted ferns, flowering shrubs and plants, and trees in plain view on the periphery. The many areas to sit, relax and meditate were in strategic places with views to reflect on nature's rich beauty and all the countless options we have as gardeners. Just before leaving the garden, my husband and I, CATHY MADDOX and WAYNE HENDERSON were visiting with the two gardeners responsible for keeping the grounds well-groomed when a large armadillo appeared close by. We briefly discussed the best method to get rid of the pest, then we departed to let the gardeners choose one of the methods we had just discussed! A delicious lunch at the Talisi Hotel was the perfect end to a perfect morning.

We welcome new CCMGA members, LAURICE GOORLEY and JOY SKELTON.

The 2007 directory will be distributed for all members at the July meeting. If you have any change in your address, phone number or e-mail, please contact LYNNE KUHLMANN, 834-8557; ANNA OWEN, 277-6697 or JANE SHALHOOP, 271-2503.

“Cultivate the garden from within.”
Anonymous, *Gardener's Book of Wisdom*



Registration Information for MG Workshops at Auburn

Binomial Nomenclature

The cost is \$15.00, which includes a box lunch. Make checks to either AMGA or Alabama Master Gardener Association and send your check, along with your contact information, to

Diana Jones
573 Davis Dr.

Roanoke, AL 36274.

Registrations must be received by August 7. Workshop is limited to 50 people. For more information, contact Diana at dar573@communicomm.com or 334 / 863-8527.

Master Gardener School

The cost for the August 15 Master Gardener School is \$35.00, which includes lunch. The tickets for the barbeque supper on August 14 are \$10.00. Make your check payable to Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association and send it along with your contact information to

ALNLA
PO Box 9, Auburn
AL 36831-0009.

Class sizes are limited, so register early.

For more information on either of these programs, visit the AMGA web site: www.alabamamg.org and click on "Special Events" to download brochures.

MG Workshops at Auburn in August

AMGA Workshop on Binomial Nomenclature

On Tuesday, August 14, 2007, AMGA will sponsor a continuing education workshop on Binomial Nomenclature, followed by a guided visit to either the AU Arboretum or Herbarium. The course will be held at Auburn University, with the sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Jackie Mullen will do a session on Plant Pathology, Hamilton Bryant will lead the group through the Soils Lab, Curtis Hansen will present the session on binomial nomenclature and lead the tour in the herbarium, and Dee Smith will be the leader at the arboretum.

Auburn Master Gardener School

The Auburn Master Gardener School will be held at Auburn University on August 14 - 15, 2007. This event is sponsored by the Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, in cooperation with the Horticulture Department at Auburn University, and the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Registration starts at 5:00 p.m. on August 14, followed by a barbeque dinner. Sessions start on Wednesday, August 15, at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. (Registration will also be open on Wednesday morning from 7:30 until 8:30 a.m.)

Session titles include: What HGTV does not tell you about flower beds; So many plants, so little time; What is wrong in your yard; Installing and operating drip irrigation for efficient landscape irrigation; How to select landscape design software; Master Gardeners International Gardens virtual pre-tour; Tour of Paterson Greenhouse Complex.